Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 EB-07 AID-05

HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ABF-01 /095 W

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R 301722Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4158

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, XF SUBJECT: UNRWA FINANCING

REF: BEIEUT 5456 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED BRIEFLY WITH UNRWA DEPUTY COMGEN MCELHINEY APR 30 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE SUBSTANTIAL ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENCY. RE COMGEN RENNIE'S WEEKEND TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA (REFTEL), MCELHINEY REPORTED RENNIE HAS SEEN KING KHALID BUT THAT AUDIENCE HAD PRODUCED NO RPT NO CONCRETE PROGRESS. UNDP OFFICE IN RIYADH IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO SET FIRM APPOINTENT FOR COMGEN WITH PRINCE SAUD AT MFA, AND COMGEN WILL RETURN TO ROYADH WHEN TIMING ARRANGED. MEANWHILE, CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDP RIYADH CHEIF SUKKAR PLANS COME TO BEIRUT EARLY NEXT

MONTH FOR ECWA SESSION, AND COMGEN WILL TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE NOTES WITH HIM.

- 2. MCELHINEY ALSO REVEALED THAT FURTHER CONTACTS WITH BOTH LEBANESE AND JORDANIAN GOVTS HAD CONFIRMED HIS FIRST IMPRE-SSIONS (REFTEL) RE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO UNRWA FINANCIAL CRISIS AT RECENT ARAB LEAGUE FONMIN COMFERENCE IN CAIRO. STRESSING AGENCY' INFO WAS UNOFFICIAL, MCELHINEY PROVIDED FOLLOWING OUTLINE OF PROCEEDINGS. ARAB LEAGUE SYG MAHMOUD RIAD MADE OPENING PITCH AND GOOD CASE FOR INCREASED ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA AND WAS SUPPORTED BY BOTH JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE DELS. KUWATI DEL EXPRESSED GOK SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, BUT SAUDI DE WAS SILENT ON ISSUE. AT THIS POINT, "OPPOSITION" (UNIDENTIFIED) TOOK FLOOR TO OPPOSE CONFERENCE DECISION TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA ARGUING THAT, "AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE," IT WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF "UNITED NATIONS" TO SOLVE AGENCY'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. MCELHINEY EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT AS FAR AS AGENCY COULD DETERMINE, ARAB LEAGUE FONMINS DID NOT RPT NOT TAKE ANY DECISION AND THAT RIAD. AT CLOSE OF DEBATE, SALBAGED WHAT WAS POSSIBLE BY URGING ALL MEMBER STATES TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS PROMPTLY AND TO EXAMINE INDIVIDUALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THEM. ALL INDICATORS AVAILABLE TO UNRWA SUGGEST THAT PLO, WHICH WAS CANVASSED OUTSIDE FONMIN CONFERENCE ON ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ISSUE, DID NOT RPT NOT PLACE OBSTACLES IN WAY OF GREATER ARAB CONTRI-BUTIONS.
- 3. MCELIHINEY SPECULATED THAT VOMGEN WOULD DECIDE IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS WHETHER TO SOLICIT "OFFICIAL" REPORT ON FONMIN CONFERENCE RESULTS FROM SYG RIAD, IF MESSAGE FROM RIAD NOT RPT NOT ALREADY RECEIVED BY THEN. WHILE UNRWA'S EFFORTS TO STIMULATE GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL ARAB STATES WILL CONTINUE, MCELHINEY STATED AGENCY MUST MAKE DECISIONS WITHIN NEXT WEEK ON IMPLEMENTING REDUCTIONS IN SERVICES TO REFUGEES. (FULL RATIONS WILL RPT WILL BE ISSUED TO REFUGEES DURING MAY, BUT UNRWA MUST CONSIDER POSSIBBE CUTBACK OR COMBINATIONS THEREOF IN VIEW OF CONTINUING SOMBER FINANCIAL PICTURE.) MCELHINEY PLEDGED HE AND COMGEN WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US CONFIDENTIAL

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AS THESE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN. GODLEY

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Disposition Remarks:
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